

# **SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE**

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Department of  
Administration

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Information Policy Analysis Division  
January, 2000

A school district that has adopted the previous version of this general schedule does not need to notify the Minnesota Historical Society that it is adopting this revised edition of the General Records Retention Schedule for School Districts. It will be assumed that school districts which have adopted the previous version will now utilize this revised version.

2. You may adopt the entire schedule even though your school district may not have all the records listed on it. We recommend that you adopt the entire schedule. However, if this is not possible, you may adopt individual sections.
3. The Minnesota Historical Society will sign and return the Notification form to you. You will then have the authority to dispose of your government records as indicated on the schedule.
4. Compare the records in your office with the records listed on the schedule. Retention periods listed on the schedule represent the minimum length of time that you must retain your records. Once that retention period has been reached, you may either destroy them, transfer eligible records to the State Archives, or retain permanently in the school district. If you need to retain some record series longer than the listed retention, you should establish an agency policy for those records.
5. Records identified on the schedule as historical may be transferred to a local historical society, museum, public library, or interested individual with the specific, written permission of the state Records Disposition Panel.
6. The retention stated on the schedule applies to any form of the record (paper, computer tape or disk, microfilm, optical disk, electronic media, etc.). Especially in the case of electronic records, it is the responsibility of the school district to identify the official record copy in whatever form it is. An official record is a record received or created in the transaction of public business as determined by the school district. However, if you decide to change the form of a record (for instance, you microfilm a paper record) you may not be authorized to dispose of the original record. If you are considering changing the form of a record, contact the Minnesota Historical Society, State Archives Department, 651-297-4502.
7. Data Practices Classifications are effective as of the printing of this retention schedule. Because data practices issues change regularly, classifications may have changed. For current information on data practices, consult Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, or call the State of Minnesota, Department of Administration, Information Policy Analysis Division at (651) 296-6733.

**Archival:** If a Y, meaning yes, appears in this column these records must be retained permanently by the school district, because they have historical value. Records of closed school districts may be transferred to the State Archives for selection and disposition. These include defunct school districts that consolidate or merge with existing school districts and inter-district cooperative centers that dissolve. The records of closed school districts are at particular risk because there is often no clearly authorized custodian except for the State Archives as mandated by M.S. 138.17.

**Data Practices Classification:** This phrase refers to records classified by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or other state or federal laws. The classification system includes: public, private, confidential, nonpublic or protected nonpublic. More than one classification may apply.

**Data Practices Statute:** This phrase refers to the statute or law which cites the data practices classification of the record series.